



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 30, 2008

S. 2844

Beach Protection Act of 2008

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on May 21, 2008*

SUMMARY

S. 2844 would authorize the appropriation of \$60 million a year over the 2008-2013 period for the water quality program that benefits coastal states under the Clean Water Act. Under that program, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides grants to state or local governments to support their efforts to monitor the quality of coastal waters and notify the public when beach water does not meet established standards. This legislation also would authorize the appropriation of such sums as necessary to manage the water quality program through 2013.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$293 million over the 2009-2013 period and \$12 million after 2013. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 2844 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2844 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2009-
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Beach Protection Grants						
Authorization Level	60	60	60	60	60	300
Estimated Outlays	48	60	60	60	60	288
Administrative Support						
Estimated Authorization Level	1	1	1	1	1	5
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1	5
Spending Under S. 2844						
Estimated Authorization Level	61	61	61	61	61	305
Estimated Outlays	49	61	61	61	61	293

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2844 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2008 and that the necessary funds will be appropriated for each year beginning in 2009.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$60 million annually over the 2008-2013 period for grants to state and local governments to implement beach water quality and public notification programs. Based on historical spending patterns for those grants, CBO estimates that providing the grants would cost \$288 million over the 2009-2013 period and \$12 million after 2013. About \$10 million was appropriated for those grants in 2008.

S. 2844 also would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for EPA to manage the program through 2013. Assuming appropriations for such administrative activities would continue at the 2008 level, CBO estimates that implementing the program would cost about \$1 million a year over the 2009-2013 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 2844 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On November 13, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2537 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on October 31, 2007. The bill is similar to S. 2844, but the Senate version of the legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$60 million annually through 2013 while the House version would authorize the appropriation of \$40 million annually through 2012. As a result, CBO estimates that S. 2844 would cost \$107 million more than H.R. 2537 over the 2009-2013 period.

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